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1 October 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT : Ad Hoc Requirements Committee Views on Priority Requirements in the Far East: USSR and Communist China

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1. ANGARSK, IRKUTSK, UKRAINA, SOVETSKAYA GAVAN, and KOMSOMOLSK, in Far Eastern USSR, are highest priority targets remaining to be covered by AQUATONE. These targets, while ranging below certain Western USSR targets such as [] in the Urals, are distinctly of higher importance than targets on Communist China, which will be discussed below.

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2. However, it should be noted in assessing the importance of these targets that []
IRKUTSK with aircraft production, UKRAINA with staging long range bombers, SOVETSKAYA GAVAN with long range bombers and a naval base, and KOMSOMOLSK with shipyards and possibly guided missile development in connection with naval vessels. The Ad Hoc Requirements Committee, as rapidly as current [] research warrants, will advise the Project with regard to the criticality of the above targets in regard to solving the [] problems.

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3. The Ad Hoc Requirements Committee has already provided to the Project, in a memorandum of 3 September 1957 [] intelligence advice which may be of assistance to Operations in regard to priority coverage in Communist China. This note now in addition seeks to explain in intelligence problem terms the relative significance which Communist China coverage may have in regard to National Intelligence estimates.

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4. There are no significant targets in Communist China connected with the guided missile and [] problems. (MANCHOULI and HARBIN carry guided missiles as a category of second interest, but the reports on which this interest is based are so tenuous as to be inadequate as a basis for AQUATONE coverage unless otherwise justified.)

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5. Requirements for photographic coverage of Communist China stem from US security interests that range from immediate to long term. The immediate interests concern the threat to US forces in the Far East--the Seventh Fleet in the waters of the China Sea, the SAC and Eighth Air Force air bases and Army and Marine units in Okinawa, and Army and Air Force elements in place in Korea to protect that republic in the event of a resumption of hostilities (which would in all likelihood involve Chinese Communist forces). The long term interests concern the economic strength of Communist China as a factor in evaluation of the over-all Communist Bloc threat to the free world. These interests are the basis for intelligence requirements for warning of the imminence of hostilities, for information on the capabilities of CHICOM military forces to initiate hostilities, for intelligence on capabilities for logistic support of hostilities in the near or distant future, either limited or all-out hostilities, and for clues on Communist China's strength economically to undertake foreign or domestic economic programs independently or in conjunction with the USSR.

6. In terms of area of coverage the targets of photographic intelligence in Communist China are of two types; tactical and strategic. The tactical targets are those located close to zones of probable combat activity. US forces are in place close to these zones and have photographic collection capabilities for many targets of tactical significance particularly those that would be indicators of early initiation of aggressive action. Strategic targets are for the most part more remote; it is safe to assume that for the most part Theatre forces do not have capabilities for coverage of strategic targets.

7. The following targets are arranged in priority groups, the groups designed to represent categories of intelligence problems. Within each group, targets are arranged alphabetically signifying equal importance prioritywise. Targets, coverage of which is deemed feasible by means available to Theatre forces () are omitted.

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